Assessment of loss to States due to VAT

2723. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any assessment of loss of revenue to State for switching over to VAT from April, 2003;

(b) if so, details of losses, State-wise and year-wise; and

(c) how Government propose to compensate these losses?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Estimates for 2003-04 for budgetary purposes have been made.

(b) These details cannot become available till the VAT is actually introduced and implemented by the States.

(c) At the request of the States, the Government of India has agreed to compensate the revenue loss, if any, upon introduction of VAT by the States at the rate of 100 per cent in 2003-04, 75 per cent in 2004-05 and 50 per cent in 2005-06.

Impact of Iraq war on crude oil import

2724. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) in what manner Government propose to keep the imported crude oil flow to our refineries after the Iraq war had started;

(b) what was the actual amount of crude oil imported to our country from the Gulf Region, State-wise; and

(c) in what manner this deficit after war is to be made up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) During the year 2002-03 (upto February, 2003), 75.736 million metric tonnes (MMT) of crude oil was imported, out of which 50.775 MMT (67%) came from the Gulf region. During the period, the imports from Iraq at 3.928 MMT (5%) were quite small.

There has been no disruption in supplies of imported crude oil so far on account of the on-going US-Iraq war. The Government has prepared a contingency plan to ensure security of supplies during the US-Iraq war.

Strike by marketing staff of IOC

2725. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been huge shortage of LPG, petrol and diesel throughout the country due to long drawn out 'work to rule' protest by the workmen and junior officers handling the marketing of these products of IOC;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the reasons for the agitation of the employees of IOC; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to mitigate the grievances of the agitators and to tide over the huge shortfall in the supply/ specially of LPG to the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (d) The 'work to rule' was resorted to by a section of workmen of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) in Northern, Western and Southern Region during the period 10th March to 21st March, 2003 to raise the issues pertaining to grant of computer advance and maintenance reimbursement, contract labour, restructuring and organisational issues. Due to this, LPG backlog of 2 to 10 days and partial dry out of Retail Outlets were reported from some merkets. However, the market demand was met through the hospitality assistance taken from other Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to supplement the supplies and through the Retail Outlets/ LPG distributorship of the other OMCs. The management has prevailed upon the unions to desist from agitation by persuasive efforts and also due to an injuction obtained from the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi.